

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 116945
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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FOR HIRSCH

FOLLOWING TELEGRAM FROM TEL AVIV DATED MAY 19, 1977
SENT SECSTATE WASHDC INFO AMMAN, CAIRO, DAMASCUS, JERUSALEM
IS REPEATED TO YOU: QUOTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TEL AVIV 3568

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, PINT, IS

SUBJECT: THE DMC AS A COALITION PARTNER

1. ALTHOUGH BY MOST CRITERIA THE DMC DID WELL IN THE
ELECTION, WE UNDERSTAND THERE IS CONSIDERABLE DISAPPOINT-
MENT AMONG ITS LEADERSHIP. ITS PRIMARY GOALS WAS
TO HAVE BECOME THE ONE INDISPENSABLE PARTNER TO ANY
COALITION. DESPITE ITS PHENOMENONAL ACHIEVEMENT (FOR ISRAEL)
OF 14 SEATS AFTER STARTING FROM SCRATCH SIX MONTHS AGO,
ITS PARTICIPATION DOES NOT APPEAR ESSENTIAL TO A
LIKUD COALITION. THE LIKUD MAY BE ABLE TO EKE OUT A
MAJORITY COALITION WITH ONLY THE THREE RELIGIOUS
PARTIES AND SHLOMZION.

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2. WHERE THE DMC LEADERSHIP MISCALCULATED IS IN
ASSUMING THAT THEY WOULD DRAW SIGNIFICANTLY FROM
THE LIKUD, IF NOT QUITE AS HEAVILY AS FROM THE
ALIGNMENT. IF NOT, THE DMC DECIMATED THE
ALIGNMENT, LEAVING THE LIKUD INTACT AND THE
BENEFICIARY OF DMC EFFORTS. IT DID THE JOB SO

WELL THAT EVEN A COMBINATION OF THE ALIGNMENT, THE DMC AND WHAT IS LEFT OF THE CENTER PARTIES CANNOT MAKE A MAJORITY. THIS, DMC LEADERS DID NOT BARGAIN FOR.

3. WE NOW HEAR REPORTS THAT, AWARE OF ITS LACK OF LEVERAGE, THE DMC IS ALREADY DISCUSSING ACCOMMODATING THE LIKUD. ISRAEL RADIO REPORTED TODAY THAT THE DMC'S FOREIGN POLICY CONDITION FOR JOINING A COALITION (TEL AVIV 3166) IS NO LONGER AN ISSUE BETWEEN IT AND THE LIKUD. A LIKUD SPOKESMAN HAS CONFIRMED TO US THAT THIS IS ALSO THE LIKUD'S VIEW.

4. ON THE OTHER HAND, A DMC INSIDER INFORMED US THAT THE PARTY'S LEADERS ARE DISCUSSING DROPPING THEIR DEMAND FOR ELECTIONS WITHIN TWO YEARS PROVIDED THAT ELECTORAL REFORM IS ENACTED AS AN EARLY ORDER OF BUSINESS. ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCE, THE NRP WOULD OFFER NO PARTICULAR PROBLEM TO THE DMC BUT DMC LEADERS WOULD BALK AT PARTNERSHIP WITH AGUDAT YISRAEL. DMC LEADERS ARE APPARENTLY RECEIVING THE IMPRESSION THAT BEGIN'S PRICE FOR THEIR PARTICIPATION IN A LIKUD COALITION IS NOT UNLIMITED. MFA DIRECTOR GENERAL AVINERI AND HIS DEPUTY EVRON THIS MORNING EXPRESSED TO THE THE AMBASSADOR THEIR VIEW THAT BEGIN WOULD ACT QUICKLY IN ORGANIZING A COALITION. THEY BELIEVE BEGIN KNOWS HIS STATURE WOULD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SUFFER WITH THE PASSAGE OF TIME SHOULD HE ENCOUNTER DIFFICULTY IN COMPLETING A COALITION.

5. MEANWHILE, AS ONE OF HIS FIRST PUBLIC ACTS SINCE WINNING THE ELECTION, BEGIN WAS SCHEDULED TO VISIT THE GUS EMUNIM SETTLEMENT AT QADOUM TODAY TO ATTEND THE CEREMONY OF PLACING A TORAH SCROLL IN THE SETTLEMENT'S NEW SYNAGOGUE.
LEWIS UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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